

31163-2.MTS.396412

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended herein. The following replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A safety belt web adjuster, comprising:
 - a first horizontal member having first and second ends;
 - a second horizontal member having third and fourth ends;
 - a first vertical member having a top surface and a bottom surface extending between the first and third ends;
 - a second vertical member having a top surface and bottom surface extending between the second and fourth ends;
 - a first ear extending away from the junction between the second horizontal member and first vertical member; and
 - a second ear extending away from the junction between the second horizontal member and the second vertical member; and
 - a third horizontal member ~~[[further]]~~ having a first substantially c-shaped end and a second substantially c-shaped end, **the third horizontal member having no prongs;**wherein the first substantially c-shaped end engages the first vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces;

Response to Final Office Action

Inventor: Yates

Attorney Docket No.: 31163-2 (formerly 31104-6)

31163-2.MTS.396412

wherein the second substantially c-shaped end engages the second vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces;

wherein the third horizontal member is free to slide between the first and second horizontal member as well engaging the first and second vertical members around both the top and bottom surfaces;

wherein said ears prevent said third horizontal member from sliding past said ears; and

wherein movement of the safety belt web is discouraged by a clamping connection formed by the adjacency of the third horizontal member to the first horizontal member when the third horizontal member is slid toward the first horizontal member, and by the adjacency of the third horizontal member to the second horizontal member when the third horizontal member is slid toward the second horizontal member.

2. (Currently amended) A safety belt apparatus comprising:

a web adjuster comprising:

a first horizontal member having first and second ends;

a second horizontal member having third and fourth ends;

a first vertical member having a top surface and a bottom surface extending between the first and third ends;

a second vertical member having a top surface and bottom surface extending between the second and fourth ends;

a first ear extending away from the junction between the second horizontal member and first vertical member; and

a second ear extending away from the junction between the second horizontal

Response to Final Office Action

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Attorney Docket No.: 31163-2 (formerly 31104-6)

31163-2.MTS.396412

member and the second vertical member;

a third horizontal member ~~[[further]]~~ having a first substantially c-shaped end and a second substantially c-shaped end, the third horizontal member having no prongs;

wherein the first substantially c-shaped end engages the first vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces;

wherein the second substantially c-shaped end engages the second vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces;

wherein the third horizontal member is free to slide between the first and second horizontal member as well engaging the first and second vertical members around both the top and bottom surfaces when said web adjuster has been rotated at least 45 degrees from a first position to a second position; and

wherein movement of the safety belt web is discouraged by a clamping connection formed by the adjacency of the third horizontal member to the first horizontal member when the third horizontal member is slid toward the first horizontal member, and by the adjacency of the third horizontal member to the second horizontal member when the third horizontal member is slid toward the second horizontal member.

3. (Previously Presented) The safety belt apparatus of claim 2, wherein said web adjuster has been rotated at least 90 degrees from a first position to a second position.

4. (Currently Amended) A safety belt apparatus comprising:

a web adjuster comprising:

a first horizontal member having first and second ends;

Response to Final Office Action

Inventor: Yates

Attorney Docket No.: 31163-2 (formerly 31104-6)

31163-2.MTS.396412

a second horizontal member having third and fourth ends, the second horizontal member defining an opening therethrough;

a first vertical member having a top surface and a bottom surface extending between the first and third ends;

a second vertical member having a top surface and bottom surface extending between the second and fourth ends; and

a third horizontal member ~~[[further]]~~ having a first substantially c-shaped end and a second substantially c-shaped end, **the third horizontal member having no prongs;**

wherein the first substantially c-shaped end engages the first vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces;

wherein the second substantially c-shaped end engages the second vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces;

wherein the third horizontal member is free to slide between the first and second horizontal member as well as engaging the first and second vertical members around both the top and bottom surfaces;

a first strap enclosed around the first horizontal member;

a second strap enclosed around the third horizontal member; and

wherein movement of the safety belt web is discouraged by a clamping connection formed by the adjacency of the third horizontal member to the first horizontal member when the third horizontal member is slid toward the first horizontal member, and by the adjacency of the third horizontal member to the second horizontal member when the third horizontal member is slid toward the second horizontal member.

Response to Final Office Action

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